

Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students age 18 or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal or other appropriate school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students may write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If DCPS decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. For example, FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent to school officials whom DCPS has determined to have legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by DCPS as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person or company with whom DCPS has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(4) The right to withhold disclosure of directory information. At its discretion, DCPS may disclose basic “directory information” that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy without the consent of parents or eligible students in accordance with the provisions of District law and FERPA. Directory information includes:

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| A. Student Name | F. Weight and Height of Members of Athletic Teams |
| B. Student Address | G. Diplomas and Awards Received |
| C. Student Telephone Listing | H. Student’s Date and Place of Birth |
| D. Name of School Attending | I. Names of Schools Previously Attended |
| E. Participation in Officially Recognized Activities and Sports | J. Dates of Attendance |

Parents or eligible students may instruct DCPS to withhold any or all of the information identified above (i) by completing the “Release of Student Directory Information” Form available at www.dcps.dc.gov/enroll or the local school, or (ii) by notifying in writing the Office of Data and Accountability at 1200 First St. NE, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20002. The release or notification must be provided within 30 days of the issuance of this notice.

(5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by DCPS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202.